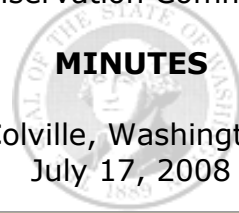


Washington State Conservation Commission Regular Meeting



Colville, Washington
July 17, 2008

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/WSCC) met in regular session on July 17, 2008 in Colville, Washington. Commission Vice Chair Lynn Bahrych called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Lynn Bahrych, Vice Chair
Lynn Brown, Member
Tracy Eriksen, Member
Melodie Selby, Member
Lee Faulconer, Member
Dean Longrie, Member
Fred Colvin, Member
Jim Peters, Member
Pete Jacoby, Member

COMMISSION STAFF

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Debbie Becker, Financial Manager
Ron Shultz, Special Asst. to the Exec. Director
Tom Salzer, Technical Services Manager

PARTNERS REPRESENTED DURING THIS MEETING:

John Larson, Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)
Don Larsen, Washington Fish & Wildlife
Kim Simpson, Washington Association of District Employees (WADE)
Gus Hughbanks, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Rod Hamilton, Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Christine Titus, Stevens County Conservation District
Dave Lundgren, Lincoln Conservation District
Lloyd Odell, Ferry Conservation District
Dale Swedberg, North Central Washington Prescribed Fire Council

Public Comment

Dave Lundgren of Lincoln Conservation District addressed the Commission. Lincoln Conservation District has been experiencing difficulty in working with Department of Ecology.

Lynn Bahrych asked Commission staff to share the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the letter from Lincoln Conservation District to all WSCC members.

Consent Agenda

Fred Colvin moved and Lynn Brown seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Lynn Brown asked that a correction be made to the May 15, 2008 Commission meeting minutes on page 6. The motion was seconded by Dean Longrie and not Fred Colvin.

With the correction made to the May 15 Commission minutes, the motion on the Consent Agenda was **APPROVED**.

North Central Washington Prescribed Fire Council Presentation

Dale Swedberg of the Fire Council conducted a presentation on the role of prescribed fire for healthy forest ecosystems.

Tracy Eriksen moved to have the Commission staff develop a letter in support of the efforts of the North Central Washington Prescribed Fire Council. Lynn Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed with Melodie Selby abstaining from the vote.

Grants and Budget Report

Debbie Becker provided a review of the 10-Minute Supervisor, January 2003. This refers to the definition of a municipal officer and eligibility for cost share.

Lynn Brown moved that staff develop a proposal for consideration by the Commission members to address distribution of cost share to associate supervisors and conservation district staff. Lee Faulconer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dean Longrie and Lynn Brown will assist staff in the development and review.

Debbie Becker reported on current status of FY08 conservation district grant spending. Only a small number of situations exist where the spending did not meet the district report from April 2008.

Tracy Eriksen moved and Jim Peters seconded a motion to have the Commission Executive Committee meet with Commission staff to review any changes in the allocation of FY09 awards, based upon the final spending of the FY08 grants. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Lynn Bahrych stated the Commission would be going into Executive session for 30 minutes at 1:40 p.m. to discuss a complaint brought against an employee, per the exemption allowed under RCW 42.30.110(1)(f). Ron Shultz and Tom Salzer of the Commission participated in the Executive Session.

The Commission returned from Executive Session at 2:16 p.m.

Lynn Brown moved that the Commission initiate a third-party investigation into the alleged happenings at the Pierce Conservation District and then take appropriate action based on the results of the investigation and other information developed or obtained from other sources.

The Commission will also develop a recommendation on Commission Member and staff roles and responsibilities for conduct at district meetings.

Seconded by Jim Peters. Motion carried.

Lynn Bahrych added the Commission members take this matter very seriously. The Commission would like to do their own investigation to better understand the circumstances surrounding the incident in question.

Lynn Bahrych called a second Executive Session for 15 minutes beginning at 2:19 p.m. for the purpose reviewing the performance of Mark Clark, per the exemption allowed in RCW

42.30.110(1)(g). Ron Shultz and Debbie Becker of the Commission staff participated in the Executive Session.

The Commission returned from the Executive Session at 2:29 p.m.

Commission Operations

Executive Director Mark Clark reported to the Commission Members on the upcoming Office of Farmland Preservation meeting in Goldendale, WA. Commission Members will receive the agenda next week.

Mark Clark presented the FY09 Action Plan for Commission staff. Clark pointed out that some of the action items have WACD resolutions attached.

Fred Colvin moved to approve, in concept, the FY09 Action Plan. Tracy Eriksen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Regional Manager's Report

Northeast Regional Manager, Eric Kopp presented the Commission Members with a report from all Regional Managers on staff.

Chair's Comments

Lynn Bahrych provided the background for the joint meeting with the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Conservation Commission Members.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2008 in Friday Harbor. The interaction dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17.

The Conservation Commission meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.